



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310-2800

AUG 7 1992

100107

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Army Environmental Office

Honorable John A. Boehner  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-3508

Dear Congressman Boehner:

This replies to your letter of June 22, 1992, to Secretary Cheney, concerning the possibility of Department of Defense ordnance being disposed of in the Skinner Landfill in Butler County, Ohio.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has recently completed preliminary assessment studies for both the nearby former Kings Mill Ordnance Plant and the former Sharonville Engineering Supply Depot. Executive real estate transaction records were searched during the studies.

Results indicate that the former Kings Mill Ordnance Plant was purchased from the Remington Arms Company in 1942. Medium-caliber and small-arms ammunition were produced there until 1944. The site was acquired by the U.S. Navy for production of landing craft parts during 1944 and 1945. It was then excessed. There are no records of using the Skinner Landfill for ordnance disposal. The Corps of Engineers is conducting an environmental restoration project at the site. Should any information on ordnance disposal become available, the Corps will immediately provide that information to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

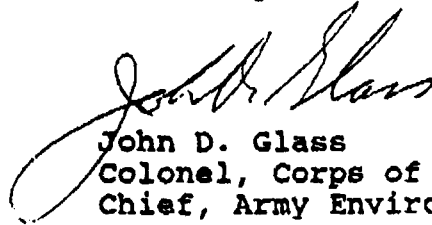
The former Sharonville Engineering Supply Depot was operated from 1942 until 1947 when the site was turned over to the War Assets Administration. Later the General Services Administration (GSA) assumed control of the installation and operated the site as the Sharonville GSA Warehouse Facility. Typically ordnance was never stored at any engineering supply depot. Hence, there are no records of ordnance disposal at Sharonville.

The U.S. Army Technical Escort Center surveyed the entire Skinner Landfill in 1976 for any signs of chemical or explosive items. No evidence of disposal of such military materiel was detected. Additionally, no records were found

at the Army Chemical Research, Development and Engineering Center concerning any ordnance disposal at the Skinner Landfill.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,



John D. Glass  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
Chief, Army Environmental Office

Copies Furnished:

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CEMP-RF

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Division,

Attn: CEHND-ED-SY (Mr. Twing)

JUN JUL 24 '92

07:26AM JM

AMCOMHISTORICAL OFFICE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
US Army Technical Escort Center, Edgewood Arsenal  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010

24 May 1976

SARVA-TE

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Trip #19-76; Response to the West Chester, Ohio, Chemical Land Fill Incident

1. Purpose of Travel. At 1633 hours, 6 May 1976, LTC Ryder, Director of Military Support, DCSOPS, DA, tasked the USA Technical Escort Center (USATEC) to provide a Chemical/Explosive Ordnance Disposal Assessment Team to EPA (West Chester, Ohio) for the purpose of assessing the scope of the problem and assist in planning actions to alleviate the problem.

2. Preliminary information. Following an industrial chemical fire in the Cincinnati area, Ohio EPA officials learned the remaining contents of the tank car involved were to be disposed at the land fill location involved in this incident. Ohio EPA officials, upon learning of this industrial chemical disposal site, went to it for the purpose of conducting an inspection as it was not an approved facility. After a brief inspection of the site and prior to obtaining samples at the chemical disposal lagoon, the Ohio EPA officials were asked by the owner to leave the property. Upon the return of Ohio EPA officials with a search warrant, they were informed by the owner that there may be buried on the location nerve gas, mustard gas, cyanide gas, white phosphorus and incendiary and explosive devices. Upon learning this, the Ohio EPA officials withdraw from the site until qualified assistance could be obtained. The request for assistance was made to USEPA so DA who tasked USATEC to provide assistance.

3. Itinerary.

9 May 76 - 0900 hrs, depart EHA, MD  
1500 hrs, arrive West Chester, OH

12 May 76 - 1300 hrs, depart West Chester, OH  
1745 hrs, arrive EHA, MD

24 May 1976

SARCA-TE  
USATEC team personnel - Trip #19-76; Response to the West Chester, Ohio Land Fill Spill

4. USATEC team personnel.

MAJ Carl F. Glover, 255-56-4707, USATEC  
LT William O. Henry, 316-58-3773, TED, NAAP  
SFC Marshall Harris, 221-24-6045, USATEC  
SSG Charles W. Jewell, 332-36-1258, TED, NAAP  
SSG Richard Mahan, 263-84-3045, USATEC  
SP5 William J. Kowalski, 050-38-9855, USATEC  
SP4 Stanley R. Mulherin, 346-52-3598, USATEC

5. Individuals contacted.

- a. Mr. Russ Diffenbach, Region V EPA (Federal)
- b. Mr. Charles W. Forsthoff, Chief, Solid Waste Disposal Office, State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.
- c. Mr. Allan Franks, Ohio EPA Public Relations
- d. Sheriff Walton, Sheriff of Butler County, OH

6. Significant discussion/actions. A sequence of events is attached as inclosure 1. A summary of the important actions is presented below:

a. MAJ Glover and LT Henry were briefed at 0900 hours, 10 May 76, by the Ohio EPA, USEPA, and Butler County law enforcement officials on activity at the site. The chemical lagoon had been covered by several feet of sand and gravel and domestic refuse. At 1400 hours, MAJ Glover and LT Henry made an aerial reconnaissance of the site in an Ohio State National Guard helicopter. The reconnaissance showed that much of the land fill had been levelled and a mound of gravel and refuse some 25-35 feet in depth had been placed over the chemical lagoon.

b. After verification of qualifications of the USATEC team, a search warrant was issued by the Butler County Common Pleas Court.

c. At 1900 hrs, 10 May 76, a meeting was held with USEPA officials, MAJ Glover, Mr. Skinner and his legal counsel present. Following this meeting, MAJ Glover met with Mr. Skinner and his legal counsel to discuss the contents of the land fill. It was learned that the chemicals

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24 May 1976

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Trip #19-76; Response to the West Chester, Ohio, Chemical Land Fill Incident

were not the toxic chemicals listed in the preliminary information but were commercial chemicals used by the Public Health Service and had been disposed of several years ago. Some explosives had been disposed of on the site by detonation or burning. A variety of industrial chemical wastes had been disposed of on the site. A search warrant was served on the morning of 11 May 76 by Butler County officials. The USATEC team was taken to the area by the owner's sons. The entire land fill area was surveyed for any signs of toxic chemicals, military hardware, or explosive devices. None were found. The Ohio EPA, USEPA, and a local supporting contractor with a bulldozer and backhoe came into the land fill area. M8 Chemical Alarms were set up at the upwind control point. Equipment operators were provided and fitted with M9 Field Protective Masks and instructed in their use and emergency procedures. The USATEC team provided continuous monitoring of the excavation operation for military chemical or explosive devices; none were detected. The chemical lagoon was uncovered approximately 30 feet below the surface. EPA officials obtained samples of industrial chemicals which had been dumped in the lagoon. The USATEC team continued to monitor the operation until back-filling was accomplished.

7. Conclusion. No evidence of disposal of military chemical or explosive items was detected at the site by this operation. Discussion with the owner/operator of the land fill supports this conclusion.

8. Recommendations.

a. The USA Technical Escort Center continue to be tasked by appropriate headquarters to provide this type of assistance to maintain a goodwill relationship with the civilian community. OK

b. The USA Technical Escort Center continue to maintain their expertise in the area of rendering assistance involving commercial chemical accidents/incidents in civilian communities. OK

3 Incl

1. Sequence of Events
2. Photographs of the Excavation Operation
3. Newspaper Releases

*Carl V. Glover*  
CARL V. GLOVER  
MAJ, CMIC  
Commanding

**Sequence of Significant Events:**

1. 8 May 76 - 1900 hrs - arrived at Holiday Inn, Ohio Rt 4, near  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXX~~. ~~XXXXX~~-~~XXXXX~~-~~XXXXX~~-~~XXXXX~~-~~XXXXX~~, USA
2. 9 May 76 - 1800 hrs - meeting with Mr. Diefenbach to be briefed on the background and current situation.
3. 10 May 76 - 0900 hrs - meeting with Federal and State EPA officials on the course of actions.
4. 10 May 76 - 1530 hrs - Search Warrant was obtained by Ohio EPA lawyers to enter the Skinner property at 0800 hrs, 11 May 76.
5. 10 May 76 - 1900-2340 hrs - attended a meeting with EPA officials, representatives from Chem Dyne Corp, lawyers for the Skinner's and the Skinner family.
6. 11 May 76 - 0830 hrs - Sheriff Walton served the Search Warrant to Mr. Skinner at the entrance to his landfill.
7. 11 May 76 - 0845-1045 hrs - USA Tech Escort Center team, using mine and chemical agent detectors, searched the landfill for any potential hazardous explosive or chemical materials.
8. 11 May 76 - 1115 hrs - EPA started excavation of the burial pits.
9. 11 May 76 - 1115-1545 hrs - liquid sludge and drums uncovered. EPA officials took samples of the sludge and drums.
10. 11 May 76 - 1545-1620 hrs - excavated pits recovered.
11. 11 May 76 - 1630 hrs - depart Skinner's landfill.
12. 12 May 76 - 0800-1100 hrs - cleaned and serviced all USA Technical Escort Center equipment and protective clothing.
13. 12 May 76 - 1300 hrs - departed West Chester, Ohio.

Ans. 1